

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order facilitate processing of the above-identified application. In particular, the claims have been amended in order to make explicit what is implicit in the claims. The amendment is unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability. Applicants respectfully submit that the references do not disclose the invention as now claimed.

Thus it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

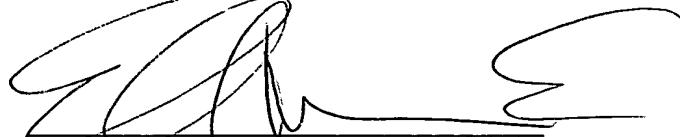
In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge
our Deposit Account No. 02-4800.

Respectfully submitted,

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